Vice President of the European Commission to India from 26 to 28 October 1991, he expressed the view that if there was inadequate protection for intellectual property rights, foreign investment in India would be affected.

(b) Government does not agree with this view. India will be able to attract foreign direct investment as a result of the measures taken recently. India's intellectual property regime compares favourably with that of other developing countries and even with that of many industrialised countries. However, it is primarily in the area of patents that the Indian law differs from that of other countries. This is on account of our concerns regarding food security and access to health care and medicines at affordable prices.

Promotion of Production and Export of Tea

1028. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are taking any steps to increase production of tea; and

(b) if so, the various efforts made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Measures taken by the Government to increase production of tea include:

(i) Short term measures such as promoting optimisation of inputs and improved cultural practices.

(ii) Medium term measures such as promoting irrigation, drainage, rejuvenation, pruning and infilling.

(iii) Long-term measures such as promoting extension planting and replanting.

In this direction, the Tea Board operates a number of schemes such as Tea Plantation Finance Scheme, Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire Purchase Scheme, Tea Area Rejuvenation and Consolidation Scheme, New Tea Unit Financing Scheme for non-traditional areas. Darjeeling Interest Subsidy Scheme Interest subsidy on Bank loan for irrigation and drainage Interest subsidy scheme on bank loan for extension planting, and Special Subsidy Scheme for conversion of vegetable land in tea cultivation in the Nilgiris District of Tamil Nadu.

Amount of Exports in Dollar

1029. SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the actual amount of total export in terms of dollar, month-wise during the last three years till the end of 31st October, 1991; and

(b) what is the percentage of growth in this regard as achieved during each quarter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) INDIA's EXPORT BY MONTH: 1988-89 TO APRIL-SEPT. 1991-92.

(Value US $ Million)

Period	1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
1	2	3	4	5
April	1094	1246	1424	1488
May	1101	1283	1509	1292
June	998	1200	1328	1225

1	2	3	4	5
July	1046	1227	1442	1301
August	1030	1188	1446	1343
September	1151	1231	1349	1412*
October	1092	1307	1448	
November	1027	1264	1408	
December	1147	1375	1588	
January	1292	1539	1653	
February	1235	1415	1488	
March	1547	1853	1785	

*The export data is available only upto September, 1991.

(b) The percentage growth in each quarter during 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 and 1991-92 as compared to the corresponding period of the previous year is given below:

Quarter	*Exports (Percentage Growth in Dollar Terms)* 1988-89	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
April-June	12·2	17·0	14·0	—6·6
July-September	17·1	16·7	14·9	—5·9
October-December	15·2	19·9	12·5	
January-March	21·3	17·8	3·0	

Source : DGCI & S, Calcutta.

Merger of TDA and The TFAI

1030. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to merge the Trade Development Authority and the Trade Fair Authority of India into a new organisation; and

(b) if so, how will it affect the country's export promotion, Trade Fair activities and investment promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The integrated working of the two agencies will result in greater programme coordination, operational efficiency and avoidance of overlapping of functions, leading to better export promotion.

Swiss Interest to Investment in India

1031. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Switzerland and Swiss firms have evinced interest in investing in India;

(b) if so, what are the details of the fields of their interest; and